

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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To Whom It May Concern:

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) is <u>strongly supportive</u> of Trout Unlimited's proposal to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to continue their highly valuable work for the Nash Stream Restoration Project. NHFGD and the NH Division of Forests and Lands (DFL, landowner of Nash Stream State Forest) have been very active partners to the Nash Stream Restoration Project since 2004. To date, the Project has removed three culverts, replaced four culverts with geomorphically appropriate crossings that provide 100% fish passage, restored instream wood in one tributary, and conducted instream habitat restoration on 3 ¹/₂ miles of the mainstem of Nash Stream. The Project intends to conduct instream and riparian restoration in another 5 ¹/₂ miles of Nash Stream, replace several more crossings, and conduct instream wood additions to several more tributaries. This is by far the largest stream restoration project in New Hampshire, and this work will essentially restore an entire HUC 12 watershed.

There are two primary beneficiaries of this work: wild eastern brook trout and recreationalists. The fundamental reason that Trout Unlimited spearheaded this project is that about 90% of the watershed is owned by the State of New Hampshire, cooperatively managed by NHFGD and DFL, and public access is assured in perpetuity. This watershed also rates high on the Priority Scores for Project Selection map drafted by the EBTJV. Approximately 96% of the watershed is already in conserved lands, enabling this entire project to act as a classroom with unlimited monitoring to insure its success.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 603-788-3164 or <u>dianne.m.timmins@wildlife.nh.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

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Dianne Timmins Coldwater Fisheries Project Leader

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